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UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF LAW

CAPSTONE READING COURSE
ISLAMIC LAW

Anver M. Emon
Fall 2005

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CAPSTONE READING GROUP: ISLAMIC LAW

COURSE SYLLABUS

Mondays: 6:10 – 8:00 p.m.

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Designed for upper year students, this reading group provides students an opportunity to discuss compelling issues in Islamic law from historical, jurisprudential, and political perspectives. Students will be introduced to major themes in Islamic legal history and jurisprudence for the first 10 weeks, touching issues such as the historical origins of Islamic law, legal theory and jurisprudence, law and colonialism in the modern era, and Islamic legal reform. At the beginning of the class, students will be asked to participate in designing the final three weeks of the course, where the course will reflect their collective and democratically defined interests. Readings will average approximate 50-75 pages per week, and will cross various disciplines of relevant interest.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to participate in class discussions and write 10, one page reviews of selected weeks' readings, graded on a pass/fail basis, which will be utilized to foster and facilitate class discussion.

REQUIRED READINGS

Course reader

COURSE READINGS

WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION

Albert Hourani, *A History of the Arab Peoples* (Cambridge: Belknap Press, 1991), 5-79.

WEEK 2: HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF ISLAMIC LAW

N.J. Coulson, *A History of Islamic Law* (1964; reprint, Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1997), Chs, 1-5.